There was no workshop at Azimganj. The land is to be utilized for storage of Railway material.

(b) The three diesel sheds at Bardhwan, Andal & Malda Town which are in close vicinity of Azimganj are considered adequate to meet the maintenance requirement of diesel locomatives working on BAK loop section. There is, therefore, no justification for setting up a mini diesel shed at Azimganj.

Re-installation of bridge over river Bhagirathi at Azimgunj

1267. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a railway bridge over the river Bhagirathi at Azimgunj Junction under Eastern Railway connecting Sealdah-Lalgola section directly with the north-eastern part of the country during the second World War;

(b) if so, why was the bridge dislodged; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal pending for re-installation of the bridge for connecting Lalgola section with Azimgunj junction ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Non-placement of order on wagon Industry

1268. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal met the Prime Minister on 4th July, 1994 to highlight the issue of non-placement of orders on wagon Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress, if any, made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Through a memorandum dated 4.7.94 submitted to Prime Minister, intervention was sought in the matter of placement of wagon orders.

(c) The Chief Minister of West Bengal has already been apprised of the current scenario of wagon procurement. Wagon procurement depends upon traffic needs Wagon availability is sufficient to meet the present requirements. The placement of further wagon orders can only be considered if so warranted by the traffic demands.

Vacant ports of SCs/STs

1269. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts reserved for SCs and STs lying vacant in the Western Railways at present; and

(b) the reasons for not filling up of these vacancies so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Build-own-lease-Transfer Scheme

1270. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways have identified several projects for private investment under the build-own-lease-transfer scheme; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.